



St. Alphonsus Alumni Association

7265 Calhoun Avenue -- Room 212
Dearborn, Michigan 48126
(313) 584-9562 • (313) 945-7487 (FAX)

*St. Alphonsus School
150th Anniversary
1846 - 1996*

REMEMBERING THE PAST . . . BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

US District Judge J. Frederick Motz
Garmatz Federal Courthouse
101 West Lombard Street
Baltimore MD 21201

Dear Judge Motz,

November 25, 2001

I am taking a very bold and audacious approach in writing this letter to you. However, I have a good reason for doing so. And after all, "nothing beats a failure but a try". Allow me to explain.

I read an article in the Detroit News entitled "Microsoft settlement to help schools". The article stated: "Under the proposed settlement, the company will provide more than \$1 billion to more than 12, 500 of the nation's poorest schools over five years." Since you are overseeing the class action suits, according to the article, I thought I would make this appeal to you. I'll get to the point.....I want St. Alphonsus High School in Dearborn Michigan to be one of the 12, 500 schools. The article did not specify whether or not the money would go to public and/or parochial schools but I thought I would make my pitch anyway. I think we qualify as one of "the nation's poorest schools".

We are part of a Catholic parish, St. Alphonsus Parish. As you can see by reading the enclosed materials, St. Alphonsus has been in the business of educating children for over 150 years, even longer than the Parish has been in existence. Over the years, the enrollment has been high and the Parish has been able on sound financial footing. Now, however, things have changed. Enrollment has declined and the Parish is finding it increasingly difficult to subsidize the costs of operating a high school. We are trying other ways to raise money (raffles, auctions, etc.) and the Alumni Association has launched another financial appeal to its members. We have met with some degree of success in these ventures but it will not be enough. The school is still academically viable, providing a quality education to a multi-cultural, diverse student population. It will be a shame if the school has to close its doors and cease its mission of educating children.

Judge Motz, I have no idea if my request to be included in the settlement can even be considered. Perhaps it is not legal to include parochial school. But when I read the article, I knew I had to try. We are small, maybe just a drop in the bucket, compared to public school districts. But we (pastor, parents, teachers, alumni etc.) are committed to keeping the school afloat so as to be able to continue to fulfill our mission of providing a quality, top-notch education...but we need help!

In closing, Judge Motz, let me say that I THANK YOU for your time. I hope you will take a minute to review the materials included and I hope and pray that you will include us in the settlement if it is legally possible to do so.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary E. Seymour". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Mary E. Seymour

President

St. Alphonsus Alumni Association